

My D^r Uncle John

I should have written to you before but have been rather unwell & even before it came upon ^{me} I felt a kind of heaviness & languor w^{ch} predicted its approach.

I have ^{not} been able to find in any Book of Antiquities to which I have had access that any inspection of plays by any particular Officer was necessary before their representation. As I read the Prologue of the Eunuchus the passage suggested the idea to me and I find on reconsidering it that the meaning which I gave is more than the Latin will well & naturally (which is nearly the meaning) allow.

Quam nunc acturi sumus
Menandri Eunuchum, postquam Adiles Emerunt,
Perfecit, ~~et~~ sibi ut inspicuendi esset copia.

Majestatis cum ibi adesset, accepta stagi.

Exclamat, furem, non Poetam fabulam

Dedisse, et nihil dedisse verborum tamen

"Inspectuendi". Lavinus (Truce's inimicus) ~~et~~ look
at the MSS after the Consul Adiles had bought the play and

makes himself (Take it in this private inspection of his own)
sufficiently master of the plot & characters for his purpose
of finding fault.

Magistratus cum ibi adesset, accepta 'st ope'

'When the Magistrate (1 of the C. Ed.) was present, the repre-
sentation commenced'. This would be (w^d. it not) the a pub.
lie representation in the presence of one of the C. Ed.
Who were the Producers & Paymasters of the Amusement.
Bentley reads. adesset in the plural. 'When the Magi-
strates the 2 Cur. Ed. were present etc'. but it does
not seem necessary to innovate.

Do you think it necessary? does the Latin imply that
this representation was not public but only a rehear-
sal in the Ediles House? - the words it follows are

'Exclamat, furum, non Poetam fabulam

Oedipæ.

'Exclamat' 'he cries aloud' can this word be said of
the objections St. Lavinius would raise, if the play were
being played in public. would his 'crying aloud' be
too great an outrage to Society. ~~or the~~ could he

Exclaim among his own coterie, his own fault-finding
chique? or does the use of the word 'exclamo' imply too
much noise, too much 'row' to be tolerated at a
public representation? does the use of this word show
that his loud & clamorous objections were raised at
a rehearsal at the Adiles' House previous to its pub-
lic representation? In thinking over this passage objections
on either side rise in numbers to my mind so that in
its interpretation 'Tunc feror huc, tunc deferor illuc'

I have smoked several (thanks to you) very nice cigars lately: the thinner ones are extremely nice flavoured - mild & aromatic.

I am vexed to say that I shall have no trip to town at Easter, as I find I can make a ~~5 L note~~ and ~~a~~ ~~be~~
behind hand in the world shall not refuse the oppor-
tunity - besides every little helps towards my Ma
degre which I take on the 2^d April.

Mary is I think quite well: she now then has a
little touch of tooth-ache. we all like having her here

J H Doctor

I go down to Oxford for a day or perhaps two on the 7th of April & should be very much pleased to have your Company.

Brighton. March 3rd 1845



J. Payne Collier Esq^r
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Harrowington.



Extremely. she reads a good deal. Les Paroles de Paschal
and some German plays she has in hand. I expect the
prayer bell every minute so with my kindest love to
all at Harrowington Believe me, my dear Uncle
Your very affe resp friend